

Remarks in Summary of Patentability

The claims have been amended to clarify that the support is constructed from a single blank and that the support and blank have opposing indents that are provided with a rounded and angular surface respectively, in addition to the provision of end flaps of each main body forming panel having a length substantially the same as the length of the middle panel. Basis for these amendments can be found in the accompanying drawings.

It is submitted that the claimed subject matter is both novel and involves an inventive step over all the prior art documents cited by the Examiner for the reasons given below.

Ringer does not anticipate claim 1,2 or 11 because the container described in this document does not have two end flaps having "a length substantially the same as the length of the middle panel" as recited in independent claim 1 nor "each end flap being substantially the same length as its opposing side wall" as recited in independent claim 11. Furthermore, Ringer does not describe opposing interlockable indents wherein one has a rounded surface and the other has an angular surface. The container described by Ringer has very different properties relative to the support

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claimed in the present invention due to the applications for the respective articles being very different. Ringer is concerned with a collapsible container that comprises three interengaging components, namely a foldable carton, a fluid tight flexible bag and a lid. The carton is not comprised of corrugated cardboard because this material would be too difficult to fold into the erected carton. The carton is erected by hand. It is designed to contain a flexible bag of liquid. This is what maintains the 'locked ends' of the carton by exerting internal pressure. Once this liquid has been expelled, the box is readily collapsible for disposal.

In contrast, the support of the present invention, and the blank for forming the support, are concerned with providing a corrugated cardboard support that may be stored and distributed in a collapsed form but, once erected, stays erected despite weight being exerted on the support. We refer to Paragraphs 25 and 27 of the published US application that clearly state that the support is extremely difficult to collapse and is inherently strong. This is achieved by the provision of an additional length of material (i.e. an additional end flap) that is substantially the same length as the middle panel and the construction of the interlockable indents that are such that the more weight and downward pressure exerted on the support, the greater the lockability. The two 'notches' that form the lock provided by the rounded and angular surfaces of the indents will actually cut into each other thereby tightening the bond. After use, the support must be broken such that it cannot be re-erected due to damage. The support of the present invention is designed to withstand external pressure; the container of Ringer is clearly not.

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Furthermore, the claimed subject matter is novel and non-obvious over Henry or Ward, each in view of Single. Both Henry and Ward are concerned with cartons that may be erected into an enclosed container but that may be readily collapsed after use. Neither Henry nor Ward have two end flaps having a length substantially the same as the middle panel. We direct attention to joining flap 24 of Ward and small seal flap 30 of Henry, which clearly do not provide any additional strength in the walls formed therefrom in contrast to end flaps 21 and 17 in the blank/support of the present invention. Furthermore, neither of Ward or Henry describe the interlockable indents as claimed in the present invention, which prevent the erected support from collapsing upon application of external pressure. These features cannot be obtained by combining the disclosure of either Ward or Henry with Single. Accordingly, we submit that claims 1-9 and 11 are patentable over these disclosures.

In view of the above arguments, we submit that the subject matter of original claims 3-9, 10 and 12, 13,14 and 15, being dependent from allowable claims, is also novel and non-obvious over the prior art.

It is clear that the design of the blank and support according to the present invention is such as to provide an inherently strong support that is particularly suitable for use in the construction of a pallet that must not collapse under the weight of articles to be stored and transported on the pallet. None of the prior art documents relied on by the Examiner are concerned with such a problem. The only document that addresses the issue of reinforcement of a carton is Guyer but this carton is far removed from the

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blank/support according to the present invention. The carton of Guyer is not erected from a collapsed state and is not formed from a single blank of material. The Guyer box uses inserts glued to an internal panel to gain strength. Guyer raises the problem of heavy duty board used in box making and hence has designed a composite box. The present invention clearly differs from this in that it provides a blank that may be erected to form an inherently strong box formed from a collapsed state and it does not require separate pieces of cardboard to be glued to internal panels. Guyer's box could not be commercially made at speed as it has too many components. In contrast, the box of the present invention can be.

Conditional Extension of Time

Applicant hereby submits that no extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is required. However, if an extension of time is required, the Office is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account no. 50-1943 for any necessary extensions of time.

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To the extent there is any fee required in connection with the receipt, acceptance and/or consideration of this paper and/or any accompanying papers submitted herewith, please charge all such fees to Deposit Account 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,

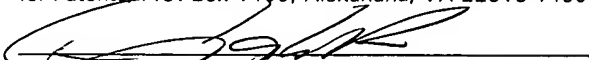
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Charles N. Quinn
Registration No. 27,223
Customer No. 34,661
Fox Rothschild LLP
2000 Market Street, 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-299-2135
215-299-2150 (fax)
cquinn@foxrothschild.com
Attorney for Applicant

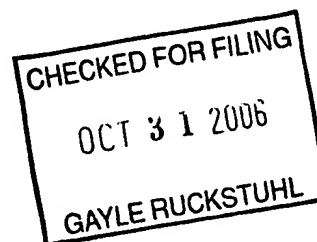
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UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

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